

Counterinsurgency (COIN) Training Command – Afghanistan
Recommended Reading List
Dr. Terry Tucker, PhD – Instructor

Four categories (read in order):

- * Afghanistan and Middle East Specific (pick 1)
- * The Classics (pick 1)
- * Special Reference to COIN
- * Contemporary Sources

Titles in Bold are suggested “Read first” or “Immediately”

RAND web site - download free books in pdf or order them and buy them
CSI Press of the Command and General Staff College - free pdf downloads or if you have a npr account you can request that they send you actual books

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Afghanistan and Middle East Specific

- **Hero's of the Age, Moral Fault Lines on the Afghan Frontier (Edwards, David B.)**
- **Punishment of Virtues (Chayes, Sarah)**
- **Queen Victoria's Little Wars (Farwell, Byron)**
- **James (Jan) Morris Trilogy**
 - **Heavens Command (Vol I)**
 - **Pax Britannica (Vol II)**
 - Farewell the Trumpets (Vol III)
- **Tournament of Shadows: The Great Game and the Race for Empire in Central Asia (Meyer, Karl E. and Shareen Blair Brysac)**
- **Afghanistan, A Military History from Alexander the Great to the Fall of the Taliban (Tanner, Stephan)**
- **Taliban (Rashid, Achmed)**
- **Power, Faith and Fantasy, America in the Middle East 1776 to Present (Oren, Michael B.)**
- **The Soviet Afghan War, How a Superpower Fought and Lost (Grau, Lester W. and Michael A. Gress)**
- An Unexpected Light (Elliot, Jason)
- Three Cups of Tea (Mortenson, Greg)
- Kim (Kipling, Rudyard)
- Sewing Circles of Heart (Lamb, Christina)
- Caravan's (Michener, Robert)
- Infidels (Wheatcroft, Andrew)

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THE CLASSICS

- **Small Wars: Their Principles and Practice (Calwell, Charles E.)**
- **Counterinsurgency Warfare: Theory and Practice (Galula, David)**

- **A Savage War of Peace (Horne, Alistair)**
- **Low Intensity Operations: Subversion, Insurgency and Peacekeeping (Kitson, Frank)**
- **The Centurions (Larteguy, Jean)**
- **The Philippine War, 1899–1902 (Linn, Brian McAllister)**
- **On Guerrilla Warfare (Tse-tung, Mao)**
- **Defeating Communist Insurgency (Thompson, Robert)**
- **Modern Warfare: A French View of Counterinsurgency (Trinquier, Roger)**
- **United States Marine Corps: Small Wars Manual**
- **Why Men Rebel (Gurr, Ted Robert)**
- **The True Believer: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements (Hoffer, Eric)**
- **Bureaucracy Does Its Thing: Institutional Constraints on U.S.-GVN Performance in Vietnam (Komer, Robert)** <http://www.rand.org/pubs/reports/R967/>
- **Seven Pillars of Wisdom: A Triumph (Lawrence, T.E.)**
 - Reprint of “The 27 Articles of T.E. Lawrence.” The Arab Bulletin (20 Aug 1917) http://www.d-n-i.net/fcs/lawrence_27_articles.htm
- **The Art of Counter-Revolutionary War (McCuen, John J)**
- **War Comes to Long An: Revolutionary Conflict in a Vietnamese Province (Race, Jeffrey)**

Special Reference to COIN

- **Understanding Fourth Generation War (Lind, William S)**
- **Rethinking the Principles of War (McIvor, Anthony D)**
- **Black Swans (Talib, Nicholas)**
- **War in the Shadows: The Guerrilla in History (Asprey, Robert)**
- **The Sling and the Stone: On War in the 21st Century (Hammes, T.X.)**
- **Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife: Counterinsurgency Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam (Nagl, John A.)**
- **Insurgency and Terrorism: From Revolution to Apocalypse (O'Neill, Bard E.)**
- **Best Practices in Counterinsurgency (Sepp, Kalev I.)**
- **Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age (Paret, Peter)**
 - **Revolutionary War chapter (Shy, John and Thomas W. Collier)**
- **Secrets of the Vietnam War (Davidson, Phillip)**
- **From the Barrel of a Gun: A History of Guerrilla, Revolutionary, and Counter-insurgency Warfare from the Romans to the Present (Ellis, John)**
- **The Army and Vietnam (Krepinevich, Andrew Jr.)**
- **How Democracies Lose Small Wars: State, Society, and the Failures of France in Algeria, Israel in Lebanon, and the United States in Vietnam (Merom, Gil)**

Contemporary Sources

- **Unrestricted Warfare (Liang, Qiao and Wang Xiangsui)**
- **Extremism, Terror, and the Future of Conflict**
(<http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/4897841.html>)
- **The Savage Wars of Peace, Small Wars and the Rise of American Power (Boot, Max)**
- **The Utility of Force, The Art of War in The Modern World (Smith, Rupert)**
- **Counterinsurgency and the Global War on Terror, Military Culture and Irregular War (Cassidy, Robert M.)**
- **‘Twenty-Eight Articles’: Fundamentals of Company-level Counterinsurgency (Military Review 86, 3 (May-Jun 2006), 103–108)**

- **Counterinsurgency Redux** (*Survival* 48, 4 (Winter 2006-2007), 111–130)
- **The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror** (Lewis, Bernard)
- **The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order** (Huntington, Samuel P.)
- Insurgency and Counterinsurgency in Iraq (Hoffman, Bruce)
http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/OP127/
- Countering Global Insurgency: A Strategy for the War on Terrorism (Kilcullen, David)
- Insurgency and Counterinsurgency in the 21st Century (Metz, Steven and Raymond Millen)
- Reconceptualizing Threat and Response (U.S. Army War College, 2004)